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LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and in response to the letter sent by the representative of Iraq (S/23751) concerning the demilitarized zone, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. Iraq's allegations that an Iraqi was wounded in the frontier zone, at Safwan, on 12 March 1992 have no foundation. The aforementioned zone is traversed constantly by members of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), which keeps a record of all the violations occurring there. There is also a set observer patrol by the aforementioned members of UNIKOM in the vicinity of the farms where Iraq maintains that the incident occurred. This patrol goes between the Kuwaiti police station at Al-Abdali and the Iraqi police post at Safwan. If there had been any violation on the part of the Kuwaiti police, UNIKOM would have alerted the Kuwaiti authorities.

2. Iraq's allegations that a Kuwaiti patrol opened fire on the guard post of Umm Qasr on 18 and 19 March 1992 are also fallacious. The guard post of Umm Qasr is located close to the observer's command post in the northern sector. It is on the Mike Road, which our patrols are not authorized to use, by order of the observers. Furthermore, the observer patrols are constantly traversing the area of Umm Qasr. Accordingly, if there had been a violation on the part of the Kuwaiti police, UNIKOM would have alerted the Kuwaiti authorities.

3. The existence of the Iraqi post of Umm Qasr is considered in itself a violation of the cease-fire and the integrity of Kuwaiti territory. This post, as UNIKOM reports attest (see para. 22 (d) of document S/23766), is one of five Iraqi posts located in Kuwaiti territory, according to the frontiers shown on the UNIKOM map. Although Kuwait and UNIKOM have repeatedly stated that these posts should be evacuated, Iraq continues to delay their evacuation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad S. AL SALLAL
Chargé d'affaires a.i.